

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

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SUBJECT Miscellaneous Military Information

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REQUIREMENT

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PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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2. On 15 October 1953, two railway cars, each containing 120 officers from all branches of the service, were attached to the 11:00 p.m. train for Svilengrad.
3. As of 18 October 1953, maneuvers were allegedly taking place in the vicinity of Svilengrad.
4. On Sunday, 18 October 1953, the Sofia garrison was at normal strength. Military activity was weak in the Sofia area and air activity was nil.

25X1 5. [redacted] General Panchnevski on the road at Kostenets (64 kilometers southeast of Sofia), and General Bachvarov in a jeep with three other officers, at the eastern exit of Plovdiv. On 18 October 1953, the traffic MPs prohibited all circulation between Chirpan and Stara Zagora. The latter city was crowded with troops.

25X1 6. As of 4 October 1953, general maneuvers had just been completed in the Arda valley. They developed a defensive problem [redacted]

25X1 7. Between 14 and 19 October 1953, important maneuvers took place in the Burgas - Yambol - Elkhovo triangle. For the first time since 1944, the problem was that of an offensive [redacted] The 3 Bulgarian Army took part in this action and was protected on its right flank by elements of the 2 Army.

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25X1 Comment:

The information given above leaves no doubt that maneuvers of a fairly wide scope took place in southeastern Bulgaria. Units of the Sofia area do not appear to have taken part in these maneuvers. It is possible that units from Samokov and Dupnitsa (now Stanke Dimitrov), together with reservists, were sent to take part in these maneuvers. At the same time, it is also possible that the military activity observed in these two cities early in October had no connection with the maneuvers which took place. This is the season for maneuvers. In 1952, they took place between 19 and 29 October in the Ikhtiman - Vakarel area and involved at least three divisions on a war footing together with reservists. It is normal that the chief participant in the 1953 should have been the 3 Army, since the 1 Army took part in the 1952 maneuvers, and the 2 Army apparently took part in the 1951 maneuvers.

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